

## EXODUS: THE GREAT ESCAPE

### BIG IDEA

*God heard His people's sadness and sent a leader to take them on a great escape.*

#### **PREP** *(Kids can help!)*

**Buy/Find** one balloon

**Find** a glass, a loaf pan (or bowl), and a large bottle of water

**Find** several small objects (e.g. coins, paper clips, rubber bands, pins), and a tissue (any paper will do)

**Find** a bouncy ball (or ball of foil)

**Get** 2 cans of baked beans (or similar)

**Put everything into the Faith Box before you start**

**TELL THE CHILDREN TO COME TO FAITH BOX TIME WITH THEIR COATS ON**

#### INTRO

Today we are going to read about some real danger that Abraham's descendants – the people of Israel – were in, and how God kept them safe.

Abraham's descendants were called 'the children of Israel.' They had been living in Egypt for many years, but a cruel Pharaoh who had come to power, had made them his slaves. However God did not forget them. He remembered his promise to Abraham and organised a great escape to a new country where they would not be slaves anymore. Moses was the leader that God chose to lead them on this exodus. But first of all God had to send many plagues (e.g. swarms of frogs, hailstorms, locusts, darkness) on Egypt until Pharaoh finally let them leave.

In fact in the end, because of the terrible plagues God sent, the Egyptians wanted them to leave so badly that they offered them their gold, silver and jewelry if they would just go. But that wasn't the end of the story... because Pharaoh was a bully and he wanted to order the slaves around and make them do all the work.



## GAME

*TAKE OUT THE SMALL OBJECTS (E.G. COINS), TISSUE AND BALLOON FROM THE FAITH BOX.*

*Place the coins on the table.*

*Tell everyone that these represent the people of Israel.*

*Rip up the tissue (any paper will do) and place the pieces on the coins.*

*Tell them this represents the Egyptians chasing them.*

*But God was able to remove the danger by a miracle.*

*NOW RUB THE BALLOON VIGOROUSLY OVER SOME FABRIC/CLOTHING OR YOUR HAIR (TO CREATE STATIC ELECTRICITY) AND HOLD IT OVER THE PIECES OF TISSUE.*

*Watch how the tissue Egyptians are lifted away from the coin Israelites!*

*The danger is gone!*

The people of Israel thought that their troubles were over when they fled out of Egypt – but they were wrong...

## READ

“At last the people of Israel were free, and God led them toward the Red Sea. As they travelled, God went ahead of them in a cloud to show them the way. The cloud was shaped like a pillar reaching up toward heaven. At night the cloud became a pillar of fire. It gave the people light so they could travel whenever God wanted them to, day or night.

Almost as soon as the Israelites left Egypt, Pharaoh and his officers were sorry they had

let them go. “Why did we ever let them get away from us?” they said.

So Pharaoh and his army got into their chariots and chased after the people of Israel. They caught up with them as the Israelites were camping by the Red Sea. The Israelites saw the Egyptians coming and were afraid.

They blamed Moses for getting them into this trouble. But Moses told them not to be afraid. “Wait and see what the Lord will do for you,” he said. “God will fight for you, so you won’t need to do a thing.”

When Pharaoh and his army were very close, the pillar of cloud in front of God’s people moved behind them. It came between them and Pharaoh’s army. During the night the pillar was dark on the side where Pharaoh was. But the side that faced Israel was as bright as fire!

The Lord said to Moses, “Tell my people to start marching to the sea.

When they get there, point your shepherd’s stick toward the sea, and a path through the water will open up in front of you. Then my people will go across on dry ground!”

So Moses did what God had told him to.

And the water opened up ahead of them. It was piled high like walls on each side of the people, so they could safely walk across the bottom of the sea on dry ground!

The next morning Pharaoh and his army started driving across between the walls of water.

But the Lord made the wheels come off the Egyptian chariots, so they came to a quick stop. “Turn around! Let’s get out of here!” the Egyptians shouted. “The Lord is fighting against us. He is for the Israelites.”

But before the Egyptians could get out, the Lord told Moses to point his rod toward the sea again. When he did, the water came back together. It covered all of the Egyptians.

Moses and the Israelites were safe on the other side of the Red Sea. Moses’ sister, Miriam, God did an amazing miracle, and Moses also had to do his bit by stretching out his rod towards the water. I wonder how long Moses had to hold it up for?

Let’s see how long you can hold up your arms while hanging onto something. And God’s people joyfully sang a song of praise to the Lord for saving them from Pharaoh. ))

*Exodus 13-15*

*Classic Bible Story Book, Kenneth N. Taylor, pages 50-52, Tyndale House © 2009*

## EXPLORE

### QUESTIONS

If we all had to leave our home right now, what would you take with you? (Let everyone name three things they would take).

What do you think the Israelites might have taken? (e.g. a pot? a blanket? a tent?)

Now you have heard what others chose, have you changed your mind?

God makes a special way for his children. God always has a way for us to escape a bad situation. Sometimes we think we can’t escape a situation, but there is always a way – and if we ask God he will show it to us.

## GAME

### TAKE OUT THE 2 CANS OF BAKED BEANS (OR SIMILAR)

God did an amazing miracle but Moses also had to do his bit by stretching out his rod towards the water. I wonder how long Moses had to hold it up for? Let’s see how long you can hold your arms up for! Take turns holding these 2 cans out in front you... can you reach 60 seconds?

*Optional extra: While holding the cans in front of you, try this experiment - lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles. Now, while doing this, draw the number ‘6’ in the air with your right hand. Notice that your foot changes direction! Try it a few times.*

*Are you still holding the cans in front of you?  
Well done!*

Moses listened to God about where to go and how to lead the people, and he was obedient to what God told him to do. Moses was a great leader because he was a great follower of God.

### QUESTIONS

One day you may be a leader too – meanwhile how can you be a good follower of God? (e.g. read the Bible, listen for God’s direction, learn to obey God)

## GAME

*TAKE THE BOWL AND FILL IT WITH WATER. Ask everyone if they can hold back the water. Let them try with their hands. Then turn the transparent glass upside-down and slowly lower it into the water. Show how the glass forms a wall that holds back the water. Now let the kids put the bouncy ball/foil ball in the water and 'walk' it across the bowl with the upside-down glass.*

God's power is so much more than ours. He can do amazing things that we could never dream of. God was able to push the water into walls with his mighty power. After they were safe, the people thanked God and sang praise songs.

## PRAY

Think of a time when God has helped you, and say 'thank you' to Him.

*Sing a praise song (e.g. Jesus Loves Me This I Know, He's Got the Whole World in His Hands, My God is So Big - see below) – use 2 saucepan lids as cymbals or 2 spoons back to back as a tambourine!*

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty  
There's nothing my God cannot do (x2)  
The rivers are His, the mountains are His  
The skies are His handiwork too  
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty  
There's nothing my God cannot do... for YOU!

*To finish Faith Box time, have an 'exodus'. Put on your coats to prepare to escape. Parent, put a tea towel over your head like Pharaoh and roar "Get out" and everyone escape outside! (You might like to use this to practice gathering in your 'emergency meeting place' in case a smoke alarm/fire.)*

## OTHER IDEAS

**1** Obstacles – have a variety of chairs, tables and other obstacles. Have one person get ready to lead another blindfolded through the course. (the children will think it is a rerun of the game from Lesson 5). Take them out of the room to put on the blindfold. While they are away, remove all the obstacles. Get them to go over the 'course' thinking it is still there! Talk about the way sometimes God gives us the strength to go over obstacles, and other times God removes the obstacles altogether!

**2** Make a blue jelly for dessert and when you serve it cut it down the middle and give each person a couple of jelly babies to walk through the sea.

## FAITH BOARD



### BUY FOR NEXT SESSION

- A packet of gold-wrapped chocolate coins